

**HAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL'S MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY; NOVEMBER 24, 2008; 6:00 P. M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, B. T. DeLOACH BUILDING
201 JACKSON AVENUE, WEST, HAMPTON, SC**

Hampton County Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, November 24, 2008, 6:00 p. m., Council Chambers, B. T. DeLoach Building, Hampton, South Carolina. Council Member(s) present: Hugh B. Gray, Chairman; Virgin Johnson, Sr.; Charles H. "Buddy" Phillips Margaret S. "Peggy" Parker, Vice Chairman. and Willard E. Wilson. Staff present: Sabrena Posey Graham, Administrator and Aline Newton, Clerk to Council and A. G. Solomons, Jr., County Attorney. Media present: Michael DeWitt, The Hampton County Guardian and Shellie Murdaugh, AllHits92.1 Radio. The meeting was advertised as prescribed by law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION:

Pastor Borum gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Gray.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearing(s).

PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

Mr. Vince Viola, Citizen, Regarding Big Mama's Road

Mr. Viola came before council and gave a positional statement on behalf of his wife, Sue Viola. (See Attachment #1 – Positional Statement)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ADOPTION OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2008 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA:
Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to adopt the agenda with the following revisions: (1) Deletion of Item #7.3, Pastor William Borum, Lowcountry Regional Transportation Authority (LRTA), Update Regarding Support for the FAITH Medical Transportation Program, (2) Deletion of Item #13.1.1, Courthouse Change Orders and (3) Deletion of Item #14.1. Economic Development Contractual Matter.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NOVEMBER 3, 2008 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Gray stated that he reviewed the minutes. He asked for a motion to adopt. **Moved** by Council Member Johnson, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO MRS. GRACE BENNETT, CHIEF MAGISTRATE, HAMPTON COUNTY:

Chairman Gray presented a plaque of appreciation to retiring Magistrate Grace Bennett.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

APPOINTMENT TO THE LOWCOUNTRY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD:

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to accept the nomination for a community based organization representative and to endorse Lynette Harley for appointment to the Lowcountry Workforce Investment Board. Motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT TO THE HAMPTON COUNTY EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Phillips, to appoint Wesley Holmes, Supervisor, Hampton County Public Works, to the Hampton County Employee Grievance Committee. Motion carried.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO DR. WILLIAM SMALL, JR., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HAMPTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION:

Chairman Gray presented a plaque of appreciation to retiring Hampton County Economic Development Executive Director, Dr. William Small, Jr.

RESOLUTION(S)

There were no resolution(s).

ORDINANCE(S)

There were no ordinance(s).

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BID(S)

There were no bid(s) scheduled.

PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPOINTMENT(S):

Chairman Gray presented a certificate of appointment for the Hampton County Planning Commission to Ms. Ivy Boles.

COUNCIL'S BRIEFING(S)

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE (CHAIRMAN GRAY):

Chairman Gray gave his update. (See Attachment #2)

COUNCIL'S DISCUSSION POINT(S):

HAMPTON COUNTY RULES AND PROCEDURES (COUNCIL MEMBER PARKER):

Council Member Parker stated that she would like to see the Rules and Procedures passed. She stated that the strikethroughs in the documents were at her request. Council will have a workshop at 5:00 p. m. on December 1, 2008 to discuss amendments to the Rules and Procedures Ordinance.

REPORTS TO COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Purchase of Property

Administrator Graham stated that the property is a duplex located behind the library with a total square footage of 1,240. She stated that the request is for council to approve the purchase of this property from Mr. Lee Cope at a sales price of \$60,000 cash and a tax deduction of \$45,000 and for council to authorize the county attorney and the county administrator to close the transaction.

Moved by Council Member Phillips, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to purchase the property (duplex located behind the library with a total square footage of 1,240) from Mr. Lee Cope at a sales price of \$60,000 cash and a tax deduction of \$45,000 and to authorize the county attorney and the county administrator to close the transaction. Motion carried with Council Member Parker abstaining. Council Member Parker stated that she left the room during all discussions of this matter. She stated that she did not truly have a conflict of interest, but Mr. Cope and her husband were business partners, and she did not want any perception of a conflict of interest. She stated that she nor her family will gain from this sale.

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South Carolina Department of Transportation Adopt-An-Interchange Grant for Interchange Improvements for Exit 38 of I-95 in the Town of Yemassee

Administrator Graham stated that Hampton County has been awarded a grant of \$150,224 with a required match of \$37,556 to enhance the only entrance from I-95 (Exit 38) to both the Town and County. She stated that :

- a joint application was made by the Town of Yemassee and Hampton County for this grant with the understanding that the matching funds would be equally provided \$18,778 each agency
- South Carolina Department of Transportation did not want to issue a joint award. They preferred instead to make the award to one agency and have a local agreement made between the two parties
- Hampton County must agree to the terms of the SCDOT Participation agreement for implementation of the grant and enter a local agreement with the Town of Yemassee for matching funds and long term maintenance. The County is responsible for honoring this agreement if others do not.
- A copy of the grant award and draft of the local agreement has been provided by Mayor Goodwin. A response is anticipated soon.

Administrator Graham recommended that council enter into an agreement with the Town of Yemassee for matching funds and long term maintenance of the site and to accept the grant award pending agreement with the Town of Yemassee. Council Member Parker wanted to know why the financial impact was stated as "\$18,778 up to \$37,556". Administrator Graham stated that the county would be responsible for the full match if an agreement was not reached. **Moved** by Council Member Wilson, seconded by Council Member Johnson, to enter into an agreement with the Town of Yemassee for matching funds of \$18,778 up to \$37,556 and long term maintenance of the site and to accept the grant award of \$150,224 (one hundred fifty thousand, two hundred twenty-four dollars) pending agreement with the Town of Yemassee. Motion carried.

Hampton County Recreation Department Receives \$30,000 Grant from CSX Railroad

Administrator Graham announced that the Hampton County Recreation Department received a grant from CSX Railroad in the amount of \$30,000 (thirty thousand dollars) for recreation projects in the towns of Estill, Scotia and Yemassee.

Announcements

County offices will be closed November 27 – 28, 2008 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Hampton County Council is invited to tour the courthouse with the Courthouse and Other Facilities Advisory Committee (COFAC) on December 15, 2008 at 12 noon.

Hampton County Council is invited to the Economic Development Industry/Business Appreciation Luncheon scheduled for December 9, 2008 at 12 noon at the Shrine Club, Varnville, South Carolina.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no executive session matter(s).

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ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Wilson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Gray adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p. m.